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SB 2204-82 RELATING TO LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Ecology, Environmental and Recreation
Public Hearing - 23 February 1982

By
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HB 2165-82 proposes that the State of Hawaii enter into the Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management, joining with the other states in accordance with the terms of the compact. This statement has been reviewed by the University of Hawaii Environmental Center, however, it does not reflect an institutional position of the University.

The above bill has been reviewed, and we completely support the enactment into law. The University of Hawaii has employed radioactive tracers since the 1950's. The growth of the diverse variety of activities in the State which generate low-level radioactive wastes including research, industrial processes, and medical practices, has been intense. The cost of shipment and the consideration of restricted allotments at commercial burial sites are major areas of concern. The management scheme for low-level radioactive waste must be reevaluated if the University's vital research depending on the use of radioactive materials is to continue.

At present, disposal at the Washington state site is our most economical choice for commercial burial. The Northwest Interstate compact would both assure our continued use of the site and intensified effort among the member states to locate alternative solutions acceptable to all the states.